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(54) **IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS**

(57) An image forming apparatus includes: an image bearing member; a developer carrying member; an electroconductive regulating member; and a bias applying portion for applying, to the regulating member, a bias of the same polarity as a polarity of the developer on a surface of the developer carrying member at least during a developing operation. The developer remaining on the surface of the image bearing member after transfer of a developer image is transferred is collected by the devel-

oper carrying member. At timing when the developer carrying member is driven in a period other than during the developing operation, a potential difference between the regulating member and the developer carrying member is made zero or a voltage which is different from a voltage applied to the developer carrying member toward a side of a polarity opposite the polarity of the developer is applied to the regulating member.

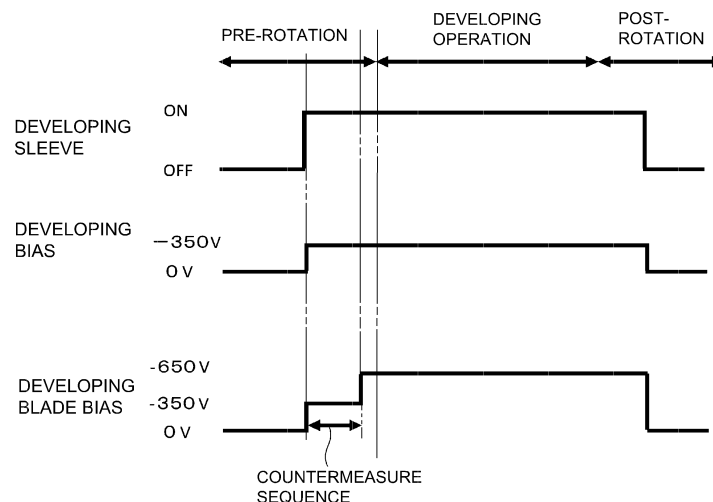


Fig. 4

**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 16 15 4423

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	JP 2005 258345 A (SHARP KK) 22 September 2005 (2005-09-22) * paragraphs [0052] - [0056]; figures 1,2 * * abstract * -----	1,2,5	INV. G03G15/06 G03G15/08 G03G21/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G03G

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.

Claims searched completely :

Claims searched incompletely :

Claims not searched :

Reason for the limitation of the search:

see sheet C

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Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	22 November 2016	Mandreoli, Lorenzo
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

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**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number

EP 16 15 4423

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Claim(s) completely searchable:

1, 2, 5

Claim(s) not searched:

3, 4

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Claims 1 and 3 are multiple independent claims

22-11-2016

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 2005258345	A	22-09-2005	NONE

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82